

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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| International Application No |
| PCT/GB 03/01657 |

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|---|
| A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER |
| IPC 7 A23L1/0524 A23L1/0532 A23K1/00 A23K1/18 |

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A23L A23K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, BIOSIS, FSTA

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|------------------------|
| P, X | WO 02 056713 A (BARWICK BRYAN EDWIN ;KELLY THOMAS REID (GB); SAWANT VIJAY ARJUN (G) 25 July 2002 (2002-07-25) page 3, line 5 -page 4, line 26 example 1 | 17 |
| A | page 2, line 24 page 3, line 5-7 --- | 1-16 |
| X | US 4 624 856 A (SQUICCIARINI ALEX J ET AL) 25 November 1986 (1986-11-25) column 3, line 61 -column 4, line 36 column 6-10 example 1 --- | 1-5, 8-12,16, 17 |

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

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| Date of the actual completion of the International search | Date of mailing of the International search report |
|---|--|

29 August 2003

08/09/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
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| X | GB 1 369 198 A (UNILEVER LTD) 2 October 1974 (1974-10-02) page 1, line 10-54 page 2, line 1-64, 122-130 page 3, line 48 examples 1,2,5 page 1, line 17-19 --- | 17 |
| A | | 1-16 |
| X | US 4 348 418 A (SMITH JOHN R ET AL) 7 September 1982 (1982-09-07) column 2, line 16-48 column 3, line 67 -column 4, line 46 example 1 column 2, line 40-42; example 1 --- | 17,21 |
| A | | 1-16 |
| X | US 4 347 261 A (CHALLEN IAN A ET AL) 31 August 1982 (1982-08-31) column 1, line 29 -column 4, line 28 examples 1-5 column 1, line 35,36 --- | 17 |
| A | | 1-16 |
| X | WO 93 03627 A (NOVUS INVESTMENTS LTD) 4 March 1993 (1993-03-04) page 2, paragraph 3 page 3; example 1 page 3, paragraphs 4,5 example 1 --- | 17 |
| A | | 1-16 |
| X | US 5 217 740 A (LANTER KENT J) 8 June 1993 (1993-06-08) column 2, line 6-15 column 2, line 41-59 column 5, line 64 -column 6, line 5 claim 1 column 1, line 64 --- | 17,21,22 |
| A | | 18-20 |
| X | US 5 985 336 A (DIBNER JULIA J ET AL) 16 November 1999 (1999-11-16) column 2, line 40 -column 3, line 25 column 3, line 37-47 column 4, line 10-22,52-67 column 5, line 26,28,61,62 column 8, line 9-47 column 9, line 1-27 column 10, line 6-14 --- | 17,21,22 |
| X | | |
| X | US 4 323 474 A (HANSEN NIELS H V ET AL) 6 April 1982 (1982-04-06) figure 1 column 2, line 26-34,54-60 --- | 23 |
| A | | |
| A | EP 0 574 051 A (MONDOMIX HOLLAND B V) 15 December 1993 (1993-12-15) figure 1 ----- | 23 |
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/GB 03 01657

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/SA/ 210**Continuation of Box I.2****Claims Nos.: 24-25**

The subject-matter of present claims 24-25 is not defined and therefore totally lacks clarity in the meaning of Art. 6 PCT. It would at best relate to an extremely large number of possible products or processes. In fact, the claims contain so many options, variables, and possible permutations that a lack of clarity within the meaning of Article 6 PCT arises to such an extent as to render a meaningful search of the claims impossible. Lack of support by the description for all the combinations mentioned in claim 24 is also an issue (Art. 6 PCT). Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the application which do appear to be clear, namely claims 1-23 and claims 24-25 were not searched at all.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: 24-25 because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of Invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple Inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/GB 03/01657

| Patent document cited in search report | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | | Publication date |
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